



# The Baker County Press

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TheBakerCountyPress.com

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Friday, January 15, 2016 • Volume 3, Issue 3

## Lawsuit filed against gray wolf delisting

• ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SAY OREGON WOLVES HAVE NOT RECOVERED

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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On November 9, 2015, the Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Commission, with a vote of 4-2, removed the

Gray Wolf from the List of Endangered Species, under the Oregon Endangered Species Act.

In response, on December 30, 2015, Cascadia Wildlands, the Center For Biological Diversity, and Oregon Wild collectively filed a legal challenge to that decision.

Oregon Wild documentation states, as a reason for filing the lawsuit, that, "Simply put, the government must follow its own

laws. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) violated several of its own laws by refusing to consider the best available science, ignoring conflicts of interest, and bending to political pressure to delist wolves. Wolves in Oregon have not recovered."

"It's simply too soon to remove protections for Oregon's wolves," said Noah Greenwald, Endangered Species Program Director

for the Center for Biological Diversity. "It's not rocket science that roughly 80 wolves in 12 percent of suitable habitat in Oregon does not equal a recovered population. The gray wolf remains endangered, and protections should never have been removed," he said.

SEE WOLVES PAGE 7



Photo Courtesy of ODFW.

Wolf OR14 near the Umatilla River.

## 'Birds and Burns' presented to Powder Basin Watershed Council



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Jamie Ratliff presented a slideshow and discussion titled "Birds and Burns: The Ecological Necessity of Severe Wildlife."

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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The Powder Basin Watershed Council's (PBWC) monthly meeting Wednesday, January 6, 2016, included special guest Jamie Ratliff, Wildlife Biologist for the United States Forest Service (USFS) Whitman Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF).

Ratliff presented a slideshow and discussion titled "Birds and Burns: The Ecological Necessity of Severe Wildlife."

This presentation was an extension of the Birds and Burns Network, a research program initiated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), in an effort to "...examine fire effects on populations and habitats of wildlife in ponderosa pine forests in eight states across the western United States, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico...this research program seeks to characterize bird community response to forest change following wildfire and prescribed fire, namely for cavity-nesting species dependent on fire-maintained habitats,"

according to the RMRS.

Council Member and USFS Hydrologist Suzanne Fouty welcomed the crowd of between 20 and 30 people, and, introduced Ratliff, a colleague of hers and a Resource Advisor for the Cornet/Windy Ridge wildfires, who provided the presentation at the request of Fouty.

Ratliff talked initially about a 1969 Smokey the Bear advertisement, a video which includes statements about the effects of fire devastation, including "not a bird left in sight," but, since then, though there is still progress to make, she said there has been much advancement regarding acceptance of wildfires.

She said that the value of low-intensity fire has been widely recognized, however, the benefits of high-intensity fire have not been recognized, and, headlines showcase the devastation and destruction instead.

She contrasted the viewpoint of an "ecological wasteland" after wildfire seen by most people, with that of a wildlife biologist who may view it as valuable wildlife habitat.

SEE BIRDS AND BURNS PAGE 5

## New City Council member



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Luke Yeaton swears in Daniel Lowe as the newest City Council member.

• DANIEL LOWE UNANIMOUSLY APPOINTED TO VACANCY, FAVORABLE FINANCIAL REPORT GIVEN

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
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An hour-long executive session was scheduled to begin the first City Council meeting of 2016. The agenda indicated there was to be a discussion about current and possible future litigation stemming from the water/sewer rate issue out on the east end of Campbell street. That discussion was over and done with in about 10 minutes.

SEE CITY COUNCIL PAGE 10

## Chief Lohner elected to regional director for chiefs association

BY KERRY MCQUISTEN  
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Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner was elected Tuesday morning to the District 15 Director position for the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), serving the northeast Oregon area.

The election took place at the Winter Conference, Executive Leadership Training Seminar in Seaside.



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Police Chief Wyn Lohner.

SEE POLICE CHIEFS PAGE 8

**Friday** Mostly cloudy with a chance for early snow showers. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Highs near freezing. Lows in the lower 20s.

**Saturday** Snow likely with highs near freezing. Chance of precipitation is 80%. At night, mostly cloudy with a chance for lingering snow showers. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Lows in the lower 20s.

**Sunday** Chance for rain and snow showers. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Highs in the mid 30s. At night, a chance for snow showers, mid-20s.

### Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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